

Atty. Docket: END895-0511038

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Kenneth S. Wales et al. Applicants:

: Paper No:

Serial No.

10/615,973

Group Art Unit:

Filed:

July 9, 2003

: Examiner:

For:

SURGICAL INSTRUMENT INCORPORATING AN ARTICULATION

MECHANISM HAVING ROTATION ABOUT THE LONGITUDINAL AXIS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants herewith submit certain patent references which the Patent and Trademark Office may wish to consider in examining the aboveidentified application. The references are provided below, and are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

1	Issue Date	Inventor
U.S. Patents	04-11-1995	Williamson et al.
US 5,405,344	11-14-1995	Knodel et al.
US 5,465,895	09-10-1996	Knodel et al.
US 5,553,765	06-26-2001	Green et al.
US 6,250,532 B1	06-26-2001	

Pursuant to the waiver published in the Pre-OG Notice, dated July 11, 2003, no copies are provided herewith of U.S. patents cited. No representation is made or intended that a prior art search has been made or that no better art than the listed is available. It is respectfully requested that the information be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the present application.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that a copy of this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

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Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth S. Wales et al.

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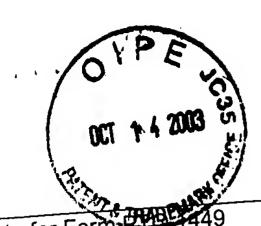
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. check mark here if English language Translation is attached.